

Water is Essential for Survival in a Disaster

Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day for ample hydration. During an emergency, more water is needed for personal hygiene and for food preparation.



How Much Water Should You Store?

- As a minimum, store at least one gallon per person per day, and store at least a three-day supply of water for each member of your family (don't forget pets).

Hidden Sources of Water in Your Home

- If a disaster catches you without a stored supply of clean water, you can use the water in your water tank, water pipes and ice cubes. You can also use the water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl.)
- To use the water in your water pipes after the outside water supply has been shut off, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your house at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in your house.
- To use water from your hot water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is shut off. Open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning the water intake valve and turning on a hot-water faucet. Do not turn on the gas or electricity when the tank is empty.

Do You Know the Location of Your Incoming Water Valve?

- This will need to be shut off to stop contaminated water from entering your home if you hear reports of broken water or sewage lines.

Two Ways to Purify Water

- You should purify all water of uncertain purity before using it for drinking, food preparation or hygiene. Here are two simple methods:
 - **Boiling:** Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes. After boiling, water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers.
 - **Disinfection:** Household liquid bleach can also be used to kill microorganisms. Add 16 drops of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. Do not use scented bleaches, color-safe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners. Only regular household bleach that contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite as the only active ingredient should be used.

How to Handle Pets During an Emergency (from page 4)

- Have you considered getting a backpack or small suitcase to keep your pet(s) essentials for a five day stay away from your residence?
- Being prepared for an emergency or disaster will greatly reduce the amount of stress on you and your pet(s).

Items for an Emergency Preparedness Pet Kit:

- Pet carrier
- Towels or blankets
- Cat litter
- Five days worth of food and water
- Five days worth of medication (Be sure to make special provisions for medications that require refrigeration)
- Five days worth of specific diet supplies
- Plastic bags for waste
- Extra leash and collar
- Owner information on leash and collar
- Food and water dishes
- Vaccination records
- Pet toys

If you have any questions or suggestions about planning for your pets in an emergency, please call Sandy City Animal Services at 352-4450.